

Message Text

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EUR/WE - MR. BEIGEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 262512

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: US-ITALY CIVAIR QUESTIONS

1. SERAFINI OF ITALIAN EMBASSY HAS BEEN PRESSING DEPTOFFS FOR SOME TIME FOR USG TO OFFER BOSTON-CHICAGO COTERMINAL RIGHTS FOR ALITALIA, IMPLYING THIS WOULD IMPROVE CLIMATE IN US-ITALY CIVAIR RELATIONS AND QUIET THOSE FACTIONS CALLING FOR ITALY DENOUNCE BILATERAL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT. WHILE DEPARTMENT SKEPTICAL THAT SUCH US OFFER WOULD NECESSARILY PRODUCE THE RESULTS IMPLIED IT BELIEVES A SPECIFIC RESPONSE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO SERAFINI'S OVERTURES IN ORDER TEST THE WATER. ACCORDINGLY, ON OCTOBER 19, DEPTOFF (STYLES) GAVE SERAFINI FOLLOWING INFORMAL PAPER, STRESSING THAT SUGGESTION WAS NOT A FORMAL PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME.

A. VERY DIFFICULT FOR USG AGREE CHANGES IN AGREEMENT WHEN OTHER COUNTRY IS NOT LIVING UP TO ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER AGREEMENT. US HAS TAKEN SAME STAND WITH UK (MIA/CHI CAPACITY) AND JAPAN (US ROUTE RIGHTS SAIPAN-JAPAN). THIS
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IS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE.

B. TWO AREAS WHERE WE BELIEVE GOI IS NOT LIVING UP TO ITS OBLIGATIONS ARE CHANGE OF GAUGE AND 747-F.

C. FACT IS THAT SEABOARD IS NOT NOW USING CHANGE OF GAUGE AND THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE PRESSURE USE 747-F. BUT NEED FOR CHANGE GAUGE AND USE 747-F MAY RETURN AT ANY TIME.

D. DEPARTMENT WOULD BE PREPARED ASK CAB FOR ITS VIEWS ON FOLLOWING:

(1) ITALY GIVEN PROVISIONAL RIGHTS COTERMINALIZE BOS/CHI ON BASIS (1) AZ SERVES CHI ONLY VIA BOS; (2) CHI FREQUENCY DOES NOT EXCEED DAILY SERVICE; AND (3) AZ DOES NOT INTRODUCE SERVICE TO US POINTS NOT CURRENTLY BEING SERVED.

(2) ITALY PROVIDES ASSURANCES THAT IT WILL NOT IMPEDE US CHANGE OF GAUGE OR USE 747-F AIRCRAFT. USG WOULD UNDERTAKE TO CONSULT, HOWEVER, SHOULD ITALY BELIEVE THAT CHANGE OF GAUGE OR USE 747-F GIVES RISE TO CAPACITY INCONSISTENT WITH BILATERAL OR MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING.

(3) USG AND GOI AGREE TO CONSULT ON BROADER ISSUES SOMETIME AFTER JUNE 1977. IN MEANTIME, BOTH SIDES WOULD USE THEIR BEST EFFORTS TO FACILITATE CAPACITY PLANS OF AIRLINES BY NOT RAISING OBJECTIONS TO MINOR CAPACITY INCREASES OR CHANGES IN SCHEDULES.

2. FYI. CAB IS, IN FACT, AWARE OF FOREGOING PAPER AND RAISED NO OBJECTION TO HANDING IT TO ITALIANS. END FYI.

3. NO ACTION BY EMBASSY REQUIRED SINCE WE BELIEVE IT PREFERABLE TO CONTINUE HANDLE THIS THROUGH SERAFINI FOR TIME BEING. SERAFINI NOW IN ROME AND IS PRESUMABLY DISCUSSING MATTER WITH ITALIAN AUTHORITIES. KISSINGER

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